



THE TALON *F.Y.I.*

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TASK FORCE EAGLE, TUZLA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

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News Briefs

Proper uniform policy

All Task Force Eagle military personnel must wear the proper uniform at all times outside of their barracks. The uniform includes Kevlar helmet, load-carrying equipment, body armor, protective mask and individual weapon. The only exception is when soldiers go to the shower point. Then, they may wear their PT uniform with Kevlar.

Legal assistance hours

The Eagle Base and Lukavac Staff Judge Advocate offices are open to help soldiers with legal assistance and claims. The SJA Offices are located at Division Rear and in Room 25 of the Task Force Eagle Headquarters building. Powers of attorney, claims and emergency legal assistance are provided on a walk-in basis. To schedule a legal assistance appointment at the D-Rear, call MSE 551-3594. At D-Main, call MSE 551-3394.

Hours for usual legal assistance and claims are daily from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at both locations. Services outside these hours also are available.

1st Armored Division Band

Music has filled the air in recent days at Eagle Base, Tuzla, thanks to the musicians who make up the 1st Armored Division Band. The band has played for President Bill Clinton twice in the last month. They are often heard playing at church services on post and in the dining facility.

Laundry hours expanded

The Brown & Root laundry facility has expanded its laundry hours. Laundry may now be dropped off from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. There is no longer a weight limit for laundry bags. Clean laundry may be picked up also during those hours, 48 hours after drop-off.

Water and MREs

Bottled water and MREs may now be picked up at the dining facility.

Super Bowl hoopla!



Photo by Sgt. Mark Faram

1st Lt. Wendy Rivers of the 4-40th Signal Battalion expresses her fanaticism for the Pittsburgh Steelers, at the Super Bowl XXX party held midnight, Sunday, at the Eagle Base, Tuzla, dining facility. "It's a great feeling to have a TV to watch the game. It makes you feel like you're back home, at least for a little while." The Charleston, S.C. native has been a Steelers fan all her life, though admits she has never been to Pittsburgh. More than 250 soldiers and civilian employees turned out for the festivities, which featured door prizes, food and a chance to unwind. Unfortunately for Rivers, the Dallas Cowboys defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 27-17.

The mailman cometh ... sometimes

Postal service to outlying camps slow but improving

By Spc. Pat Hendricks
358th MPAD

DUBRAVE — After slogging through lousy weather, sinking in boot-sucking mud and overcoming various obstacles, receiving mail is crucial to a soldier's morale. It brightens the darkest day and shortens the longest night. A simple letter from family and friends can make a world of difference when you're thousands of miles from home.

For the nearly 4,000 soldiers of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, serving in northeastern Bosnia, mail service has been irregular at best, but is getting better, one leader says.

"Right now the mail system is not fully in place so mail is being misdirected. It'll be at least two more weeks before the system works properly," said Capt. Paul M. Hill, commander, Headquarters and Head-

quarters Company, 1st Brigade. "Right now, we drive to Tuzla and bring back the mail and sort it here."

The 1st Brigade's operations base is in the town of Dubrave about 60 kilometers north of Tuzla. For now, whenever soldiers go to Eagle Base, Tuzla, they take outgoing mail with them and return with several postal bags full of boxes and letters. Without this impromptu service, mail call would probably be non-existent.

"Morale was going down so we had to do what we could to get the mail here," said HHC 1st Sgt. Duncan Hurst. "We wanted to reinstate that smile on the soldiers faces."

According to Hurst, they've had to sort

see *Mail*, page 8

- 'Any Soldier' letters popular with troops, page 8
- Tips for getting your mail home successfully, page 8

Soldiers and leaders remember - safety first

Soldiers and leaders make it happen.

As I walk around the base camps that make up Task Force Eagle, I have noticed that some soldiers are not in the required uniform that includes Kevlar helmet, load-carrying equipment, body armor, protective mask and individual weapon. Noncommissioned officers need to strictly enforce this standard.

NCOs also must stay focused on force protection, which includes battle drills. Every tent and building in the area of operations must have an evacuation plan in place.

Another topic dealing with force protection is weapon safety. Several misfires have already occurred, most due to im-

proper handling of weapons. When leaving a base camp, troops should load a magazine into their M16A2, but NOT lock and load. Before entering a base camp, a security check should be made and magazines removed. The standard issue is seven magazines with 210 rounds for an M16A2 and three magazines with 45 rounds for a 9 mm pistol.

In all of these areas, sergeants and leaders have to be tough and ruthless, and ensure that standards are met to the highest degree. If not, your people could get hurt. Slow down and be visually aware of what's going on around you. While doing a reconnaissance of your area, always have a map on hand and ensure you have



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley

From the Top

enough radios to maintain convoy security and control.

Leaders also need to talk to their soldiers on a regular basis to keep them informed. Make sure you understand your mission, explain it fully to your troops and be prepared to quell any rumors that could hamper the mission and decrease morale.

And, leaders — slow down. You can't run flat-out for 365

days. You have to slow your daily pace enough so that you can sustain and stay focused on your work for one year.

Lastly, remember we are all professionals, regardless of our service branch or component. Soldier, sailor, airman or Marine — we are all one team.

As you perform your duties around Bosnia-Herzegovina, never forget to treat others with dignity and respect.

Stealing from fellow soldiers is stealing from yourself

The after-hours appropriation of military equipment and materiel is affectionately referred by some as the "Army supply system."

That affection is misplaced given the recent spate of thefts here at Eagle Base, Tuzla.

No good purpose is served by yanking heaters off shower container walls, swiping mirrors from Humvee doors and filching soldiers' cold-weather gear when they are left unattended.

Sgt. Maj. Carol A. Sobel, 21st TAACOM, said it best: "If you can't keep people warm, can't see where you're going or who is behind you when you're backing up or suffer cold-weather injuries for lack of proper clothing,

it can affect the mission."

Soldiers trying to make up shortages by thievery only cause shortages for someone else.

Making up those shortages is difficult while deployed in an environment such as this, said Chief Warrant Officer Philip Tackett, 521st MP Detachment (Criminal Investigation Division), Division Support Element. Road and railway conditions and frequently poor flying weather hinder movement of supplies.

Whenever possible, all soldiers should secure their gear and keep it under lock and key so that it is not an open invitation to thieves.



Spc. George Roache
29th MPAD

Viewpoint

Posting tent guards may create a slight personnel shortage, but are well worth it to secure a unit's gear. Many units are constructing doors on tents, which is an excellent idea.

Also, frequently check your vehicles when they are not in use. If possible, park them in high visibility locations to deter

thieves.

We are not stealing from the government when we make late-night runs in search of unattended items.

We are stealing from — and hurting — ourselves.

There's nothing affectionate about it.

(See related story on page 3.)

THE TALON

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Quick takes

Don't feed the kids

As tempting as it may be, don't give food to the local villagers as you pass through towns unless coordinated by your G-5 or civil affairs team.

While it may seem a harmless gesture, what goes on after you leave may not be. Children could be injured if they run into the street to get treats from passing convoys.

There are humanitarian organizations who are working to get food and supplies to the local populace. If you have a desire to help, talk to your unit S-5 or civil affairs team for the right way to do it.

Tuzla Chapel notes

A gathering of 1st Armored Division Muslim soldiers is set for Feb. 20 in celebration of the holy month of Ramadan and 'Aid el-Iftar. Food, prayers and fellowship will be offered at Eagle Base Chapel from noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Seth Hidek at 551-2031 or 551-7410.

Glamour search

Glamour Magazine is looking for female U.S. soldiers who will write to them describing their life here in Bosnia.

They'd like to know what women consider the hardest things about life here, what they fear, whether they feel proud, who they write to at home, what their dreams and aspirations are and what life is like here on a day-to-day basis.

Letters can be mailed to: *Glamour Magazine*; 350 Madison Ave.; New York, N.Y. 10017; Attn. Susan Dominus.

Faxed letters can be sent to (212) 880-7731 or (212) 880-6922.

Personal hygiene notes

Soldiers and airmen are reminded that the water at Eagle Base, Tuzla is not potable, nor is it safe to brush your teeth with. You should only use bottled water, which can be picked up at the mess hall.

To prevent rodent and insect infestation in your quarters, tents should be swept out daily.

Theft a problem at Eagle Base

By Spc. George Roache
29th MPAD

Heaters disappear from shower container walls. HMMWV drivers arrive at their vehicles to find mirrors missing. Soldiers ground their cold-weather gear one minute and find it gone the next.

As recently as Super Bowl Sunday, a reserve public affairs detachment reported a computer stolen from a locked trailer in a Tuzla West area surrounded by concertina wire and patrolled by a roving guard.

Those and other items of military equipment and personal gear have been stolen during a rash of thefts that hit Eagle Base, Tuzla, in recent weeks.

The thefts appear to be sporadic crimes of opportunity committed by soldiers who need the items.

"If something is left unsecured and unattended and someone walks by who is not honest and feels it will keep them out of trouble, they will (take) it and keep on going," said Staff Sgt. Armin K. Ogden, 501st MP Company investigator. "They are 'wrongful appropriations' made by someone saying, 'I'll take yours and use it as mine.'"

Thefts from Humvees have included a door handle, a fire extinguisher and a heater motor.

Ogden cited two cases in which Humvee doors were taken and replaced with damaged ones.

In another case, a Humvee itself was reported missing for 12 to 24 hours before being returned to its rightful unit, said

Chief Warrant Officer Philip Tackett, 521st MP Detachment (Criminal Investigation Division), Division Support Element.

The actual scope of thefts at Eagle Base, Tuzla, may not be known for some time. Not only is the MP station just starting to compile statistics, many thefts, like the case of a stolen gym bag, are going unreported because they are considered to be inconsequential, Ogden said.

"Let us know this is happening," he said. "Don't wait to make a report. We can't track these things if people don't report it."

Ogden said the chain of command's involvement would cut down on thefts. "Ask questions," he said. "Why should a damaged door suddenly be fixed?"

Units themselves can help keep the level of thefts down, Ogden said in offering the following tips:

1. Do not leave anything of value unsecured and unattended, e.g., personal gear, rucksacks and duffel bags, and team equipment in the back of Humvees.
2. Post guards where a number of vehicles, palletized cargo or trailers are being stored.
3. Report items of value that are missing if they have markings that distinguish them from similar looking items.
4. Mark items if possible, e.g., stencil vehicle bumper numbers on doors; it will deter a thief from wanting to take it.

Concern raised over hit-and-runs

By Spc. Rick Roth
29th MPAD

Concern has arisen over the number of hit and run accidents involving Task Force Eagle vehicles, according to 1st Armored Division officials.

Between Jan. 10-24, there were 51 reported vehicle accidents, 11 of which were hit and run, said Master Sgt. David Marquardt, 18th MP Brigade operations sergeant.

In case of a vehicle accident, the assistant driver should dismount and remain at the accident scene, officials said. If part of a convoy, the entire convoy will halt and establish security while trying to contact the owner of the damaged property. Ob-

tain name and address or unit of victim or vehicle operator. You can use the FM net or DSN number 559-5151 to notify the military police so they can conduct an on-site investigation.

"Anytime a vehicle is damaged, the accident needs to be investigated," Marquardt said.

If a person has been injured, stay on the scene and render medical assistance. Vehicle drivers must complete an SF 91, Operators Report of Motor Vehicle Accident. If a local national is involved, the G-5 must be provided with an SF 91.

Any driver or assistant driver who fails to stop after an accident, or who fails to report an accident immediately may be subject to appropriate administrative or disciplinary action, officials said.

Maintenance company keeps Apaches flying

By Pfc. Robert Bishop
29th MPAD

Twenty-four AH-64, Apache helicopters patrol a 30-by-40-kilometer area of the zone of separation when weather conditions permit. Because they are so often in the air, they require the services of a maintenance company, D Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation, 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

"We've flown about 800 mission hours this month when our normal hours are about 250 to 300 per month," said Sgt. John Churchill, production noncommissioned officer for the company.

For every 10 hours a helicopter spends in flight, he said, the soldiers of D Company spend four hours on preventive maintenance. And once an aircraft has flown 250 hours it has to undergo heavy maintenance called phase maintenance, which involves breaking the engine down and inspecting it in detail for damage, Churchill said.

These soldiers also keep busy maintaining the Army standard for mission readiness, which is to keep 70 percent of the aircraft

mission-capable at all times. "We've actually been at 89 percent for the first month, but all the hours are wearing on the aircraft," Churchill said.

But wear on the aircraft isn't the only problem. "We've had a hard time getting parts because our main supply system is split. Part of it's in Tuzla West, and the rest is in Hungary," said Sgt. Jerry Zoeller, armament electrician repairer. He said the

supplies will eventually all be in Tuzla West.

The weather has placed a burden on the maintenance people as well. Moisture on the optics of the turret in the nose, as well as snow and ice on the aircraft has delayed missions. "At least this deployment's given us the chance to check out the de-icing systems; they've worked pretty well," Zoeller said.



Photo by Pfc. Robert W. Bishop

Sgt. Jerry Zoeller adjusts the seating of a hellfire missile on an Apache during maintenance.

3-325th Infantry soldiers begin returning to Italy

By Spc. Rick Roth
29th MPAD

After serving as the primary protection force for Eagle Base, Tuzla, since mid-December, members of the 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry (Airborne Combat Team), have begun to return to their home base of Vicenza, Italy.

The first contingent of about 80 soldiers, began leaving Jan. 31. They included soldiers in D Battery, 319th Airborne Field Artillery.

The 325th infantrymen, who began arriving Dec. 18, set up perimeter security, which completed the first in a series of steps paving the way for the arrival of thousands of NATO troops.

More than 800 members of the 3-325th ABCT landed on Bosnian soil, bringing with them artillery, engineers, transportation and cooks that all helped prepare Eagle Base, Tuzla, for the onslaught of soldiers moving through the base and into the U.S. sector.

"We're the guys who built this place," said Capt. Michael O'Gollaher, public affairs officer attached to the 3-325th ABCT. O'Gollaher landed with the unit and said the 3-325th ABCT's

main Army mission revolves around rapidly deploying, then seizing and securing land in a hostile environment.

"This unit is tailor-made for this type of operation," O'Gollaher said.

Headquartered in Vicenza, Italy, the 3-325th ABCT, commanded by Lt. Col. Curtis M. Scapparotti, is made up of five companies with one attached artillery battery, D Battery, Europe's only airborne field artillery battery. The battalion falls under the command of the Southern European Task Force, commanded by Maj. Gen. Jack P. Nix Jr.

"The reason we're here hit home when I saw the looks on a lot of the local civilian's faces," said Pfc. Guy Bradshaw, 18, a fire support specialist with the 3-325th ABCT's Company A.

During its stay, Company A temporarily operated an observation point in the Russian sector on the zone of separation. From here the unit kept watch, monitoring for possible illegal troop movement in the zone.

The 3-325th has slowly been turning their operation over to the 1st Armored Division and other units. Company A's observation point was to be turned over to the Russian Army.

Now, with most of the 1st Armored Division in place, the 3-325th's mission is complete.

Paratrooping archbishop drops into Eagle Base

'Peace is the hope of the world,' says Rev. Phillip Hannan at Sunday Mass

By Spc. Rick Roth
29th MPAD

It has been 50 years since the most Rev. Phillip M. Hannan, retired archbishop of New Orleans, served as an Army chaplain. However, those years melted away during a recent visit to Eagle Base, Tuzla.

Surrounded by today's paratroopers, reliving past experiences and sharing stories, the archbishop could be easily pictured among the soldiers, snow and ice that marked the Battle of the Bulge.

A jump-qualified former member of the 82nd Airborne Division, the archbishop fell right in with the troops of Eagle Base.

"I've found the servicemembers devoted to the cause," said Hannan, archbishop of New Orleans from 1965 to 1989.

Studying in Rome be-

tween 1936 and 1940, Archbishop Hannan said he could see the build-up of German troops and "considered war imminent."

Feeling a priest might be needed, he joined the Army in 1942 and was assigned to the Army Air Corps. Stationed in England in 1944, he volunteered to join the 82nd, and after receiving permission from his commander, he went on to serve with the All American Division during the Bulge, the Ruhr and Elbe River Campaigns. Hannan left the Army in 1946.

No stranger to Bosnia, the archbishop will have visited Tuzla, Zagreb and Sarajevo when he completes his third trip to the former Yugoslavia.

Believing faith is something that can inspire troops, the archbishop conducted Mass while in Tuzla, explaining to soldiers the importance of their mission.

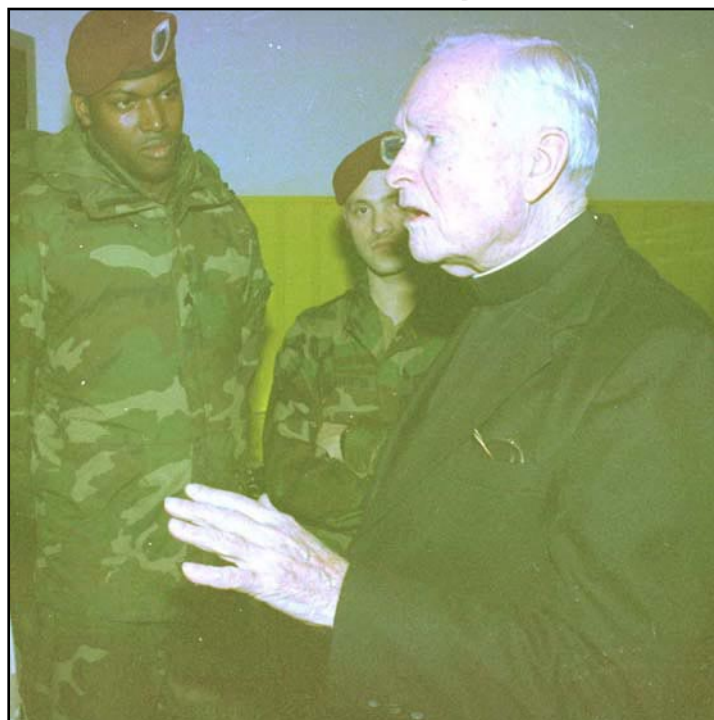


Photo by Spc. Rick Roth

Rev. Hannan greets soldiers in the Eagle Base dining facility.

"Because we are a nation of minorities, we can speak to these people," Hannan said.

Many people back home in the United States do not believe military personnel understand the situation here, Hannan said.

"After being here, I see they (soldiers and airmen) do and believe they can make a change," he said.

"Peace is the hope of the world," the archbishop said to soldiers, "and is only available through you."

Keeping warm in tents requires safe heater maintenance

By Spc. Cesar G. Soriano
29th MPAD

Recently, four soldiers at Eagle Base, Tuzla, were attempting to refuel the kerosene heater inside their tent. The heater was still lit, which ignited the kerosene. A fire broke out and the tent sustained severe damage.



Photo by Spc. Rick Roth

Always turn heaters off and fuel them outside of the tents.

Worst of all, the soldiers lost almost all of their equipment including weapons, protective masks, radios and clothing. It was the worst of seven tent fires to date at Eagle Base, Tuzla.

"Luckily, there have been no fatalities or injuries so far," said Mike Wood, Task Force Eagle Safety Manager. Wood said all the fires were caused "by people putting fuel into hot heaters or lanterns."

Wood offers several tips to maintain tent safety:

- Refuel kerosene heaters and lanterns outside the tent. Let them cool down for about 20 minutes beforehand.
- Never leave a heater unattended.
- Turn off heaters before going to bed. If heaters are kept on at night, a fire guard **MUST** be posted.
- Keep combustibles such as clothes, sleeping bags and paper at least three feet from heaters.
- Make sure personnel know where fire extinguishers are. They should be placed next to each tent exit.
- Keep both tent exits clear of obstacles.
- Store fuel cans outside the tent. Use a chain and lock to prevent theft of fuel cans.
- Ensure all personnel in tent are trained on the kerosene equipment.

Task Force Eagle cupboards kept full by support battalion

By Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson
29th MPAD

LUKAVAC — A smoke-belching coal factory looms over the huge vehicle parts supply yard run by the soldiers of C Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion, 1st Armored Division, but they hardly notice. They have work to do.

The 26 soldiers in C Company have the 24-hour-a-day responsibility of supplying vehicle parts to roughly 200 units supporting Task Force Eagle. Tires, engines, motor oil — even pallets of color televisions — fill the supply yard. Forklifts load and unload crates at unnatural speeds.

Often, the process starts when Sgt. Sandra McDonald, motor transport operator, helps pick up supplies from the Tuzla Main Airfield and transports them to the supply yard in Lukavac.

"They download (the parts) here, and then distribute them," McDonald said of her fellow soldiers.

Once the parts arrive, they become the responsibility of Sgt. Clarence Howard, who describes himself as an "all over man," but actually holds the 92A military occupational specialty, which involves the Army supply system.

"Right now, we are putting the parts in (Division Support Units) at Tuzla West, Tuzla East and Tuzla Main," Howard said.

The parts — which are for various vehicles, tractor-trailers and tanks — originate from Baumholder and Kaiserslautern, Germany, Howard said. The supply yard also stocks all classes of Army supplies.

After the day-shift soldiers finish their work each day, a night shift comes in and loads up trailers full of parts which are transported to the DSUs.

To an outsider, the massive supply of parts would seem incomprehensible to sort through, but the soldiers of C Company are well-organized and appear



Photo by Spc. Cesar G. Soriano

Sgt. Sandra McDonald of the 123rd Main Support Battalion in Lukavac directs a forklift of supplies.

in complete control of the enormous operation.

While the soldiers work hard to make sure the parts wind up in the right place, the cold, snow, sleet, rain and especially the gooey, thick mud make their jobs tough.

"With all this mud and everything, it makes it harder for us to complete this mission," McDonald said.

In addition, the coal factory looms ominously over the supply yard. "In the morning when you wake up, if you come out here and wipe off any of these vehicles, you'll see some black soot on all of them," McDonald said.

Unserviceable parts that come in from different DSUs are handled by maintenance soldiers, including Sgt. Tracy Woodard. "Right now, we're just handling the parts we can repair locally," he said.

Woodard said his biggest challenge is finding the space to store the various parts once he receives them.

MCR unit keeps people informed

By Sgt. Kelly C. Fischer
358th MPAD

ODZAK — The city of Odzak once boasted a population of more than 20,000 people. Now, perhaps 100 inhabitants remain.

Even in this skeleton of a city, Implementation Force soldiers of the Brigade Psychological Support Element 940 are responsible for military-civil relations. They are working hard to keep the local citizens informed.

Military-civil relations is a new term chosen for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR to describe psychological operations.

Just as they have done throughout northeastern Bosnia, the MCR soldiers hand-deliver copies of *Herald of Peace* to the people who travel through Odzak.

The publication helps IFOR leaders communicate with the citizens of an area about the peace agreement and the role of the IFOR soldiers.

To avoid the appearance of favoritism toward one ethnic group or another, *Herald of Peace* uses the Cyrillic alphabet on half of the paper and Latin alphabet on the other. English also is used in the middle. The soldiers decide which side of the paper to present to the locals by observing which alphabet is used on various signs in the area.

The Tactical Psyop Team in support of Task Force 4-67 Armor, 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, "is out here conducting an assessment of the town and passing out newspapers that inform the locals of what IFOR is doing," said Capt. Nicholas P. Charles, BPSE 940 detachment commander. The team also gives safety messages and lists deadlines for the peace agreement, he added.

The weekly publication of *Herald of Peace* is just one product BPSE 940 distributes. They also pass out mine-awareness posters and handbills that explain IFOR's mission in Bosnia. In turn, they obtain information from local people.

"The first time we passed out the newspaper, everyone wanted one," said Pvt. Douglas G. Saylor. Recently, Saylor and Spc. Christopher M. Frew distributed the paper at an intersection in Odzak. They receive an occasional wave of rejection, but most people were eager for the communication with the American soldiers.

Personality of the week

MI soldier searches for answers on and off job

By **Spc. George Roach**
29th MPAD

Pfc. Melinda K. Mosholder spends her time digging up intel on others. What she really started doing was looking for intel on herself.

"I wanted to find out what I should be doing with my life," said the 20-year-old Frederick, Md., native. "I was looking for a steppingstone — a platform — I could use to help build a career. I picked military intelligence."

Digging to get answers is nothing new for Mosholder. She learned how to do research while earning an associate's degree in paralegal studies at Frederick Community College.

Coming out of school, she chose the Army as a way to expand her horizons. Wanting something similar to but not the same as what she studied in college, she was swayed by her recruiter's argument that MI would give her a background for law enforcement and enhance her job prospects with government agencies like the FBI, CIA and the National Security Agency.

Besides, she said, "I like knowing I know something someone else doesn't."

Military intelligence provides key intelligence for the commanding general, such as where the potential threats are in the field and whether various factions are abiding by the peace accord. They also learn if equipment is being moved out of the zone of separation and where it is being moved.

"The goal is taking bits and pieces of trivial information and making something intelligent out of it," she said.

Mosholder is an all-source intelligence analyst with Charlie Company, 501st Military Intelligence Battalion from Dexheim, Germany,



Photo by Sgt. Mark Faram

"Intel doesn't stop for holidays or weekends," says Pfc. Melinda K. Mosholder.

and works in Division G-2, Analytical Control Element, 1st Armored Division.

She deals with human intel (what people tell you), imagery (photos and videos), and signal intel (radio traffic).

The computer literacy she acquired doing college term papers and managing property at her part-time job with Ross Management in Frederick helps her with her military job, Mosholder said. Thanks to automation, intel analysts no longer have to pour through file cards and notebooks, using computer databases.

"The more you know about computers, the better off you are," she said. "They are the tools of the trade ... They help from time to time in pulling all that information together from various sources."

Her unit has been working constantly since they heard on Oct. 7 they would be com-

ing to Bosnia. They worked 13-hour shifts, seven days a week, even in exercises simulating the real-world mission they would do once they arrived here.

"Intel doesn't stop for holidays or weekends," Mosholder said.

The demands of deadlines make working in the field more stressful.

"We have to produce intel as accurately and as up-to-date as possible," she said. "You don't want to be wrong about it — you want to be 100 percent correct in what you say and do."

Wearing a big smile that shows her dimples, she admits she hasn't found her philosophy of life, yet, but said experiences like serving in military intelligence will help her find it.

"I'm here to get some new ideas, new approaches, new things to look at," she said, "to grab hold of my goal in life — what I want to be when I grow up."

Engineers complete second bridge across Sava River

By **Spc. Luis Orengo**
113th MPAD

Army Engineers tasted the thrill of victory for the second time in three weeks as members of the 586th Engineer Company from Fort Benning, Ga., finished a second bridge over the Sava River Jan. 17.

"The task has been very strenuous and hard, but we learned from the fellows of the 502nd Engineer Company," said Spc. Eliud Rosario, a boat opera-

tor specialist.

As 586th soldiers finished their job, the men and women of the 502nd Engineer Company, "The River Rats," were formed on the first bridge.

That 600-meter span over a flooded Sava sparked international attention and caused the 502nd to reach new heights of perseverance and determination.

"This has been the finest piece of soldiering and something that will go into history,"

said Command Sgt. Major Steve Walls of the 16th Engineer Battalion. "I am proud of these guys."

Up and down the river, members of the 586th were working knowing that even though they may not have the same media coverage around the world, their work is as important to the success of this mission.

"This is the first step toward going home," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Fields, directing the action from what was left of the old

bridge.

The traffic can now flow both ways into and out of Bosnia, and the bridges will facilitate the deployment of the remaining forces.

"This mission has been a great morale booster. A week of hard work has paid off," said Capt. Greg Gondeck, commander of the 586th.

For the 586th Engineer Company, the challenge has just begun. There are more bridges still to be built.

'Any soldier' mail floods Eagle Base

By Sgt. 1st Class Bettina E. Tilson
29th MPAD

Like waves of California sunshine, hundreds of "any soldier" letters, cookies and even Valentines are flooding into Eagle Base, Tuzla.

The surge of good wishes followed a media blitz by Johnny Grant, the ceremonial mayor of Hollywood, Calif., who visited the Tuzla-based troops in early January. Grant is a good friend of celebrity Bob Hope, who suggested the trip.

"The Los Angeles news media have been most generous in helping spread the word that our American (peace enforcers) are true professionals, focused and dedicated to the mission at hand," wrote Grant in a letter to Col. Robert E. Gaylord, U.S. National Public Affairs Officer.

Several Los Angeles-based radio and television stations aired the "Hi Mom" messages that Grant taped during his stay. When Grant's suggestion that sending cookies and small sundries would be appreciated, the stations' switchboards lit up with inquiries as to where to send the packages.

One Vietnam veteran named Robert W. Zeller from Running Springs, Calif., sent 105 dozen oatmeal cookies to the troops. "I know that when I was in Vietnam any package from home was well-received and quickly shared," Zeller wrote.

"Let everyone know that we are very proud of each and every one of them and their commitment to defend what is right in the human condition in Bosnia," he wrote.

A Girl Scout troop from Riverside sent more than 100 Valentine cards. Another letter came from a 60-year-old widow offering support for the troops.

Gaylord said the outpouring of good will and support for the troops is reminiscent of Operation DESERT STORM. "When soldiers read these (letters), it can't help but give them a tremendous feeling of accomplishment and pride, knowing that the men, women and children of their country are behind them," he said.



Photo by Spc. Rick Roth

Soldiers sort out care packages from home at the Eagle Base, Tuzla, post office.

Post office delivers for troops

By Spc. Rick Roth
29th MPAD

Even though the Eagle Base Post Office is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the only time packages which require postage can be dropped off is between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Free mail, letters or packages under 11 ounces going to the United States can be dropped off any time of day. Mail also can be picked up anytime of day.

International mail and mail other than APO is not free and needs to be weighed for postage. Officials said that mail of questionable weight should be weighed to ensure it is 11 ounces or less. And, for anyone who is wondering, 11 ounces cannot be subtracted off the total weight of a package requiring

postage.

Letters going to the United States take roughly seven to 10 days to arrive. Soldiers should remember to write legibly and wrap packages well because they will be going on a long trip, said Spc. Stephen Weber, postal clerk with the 115th Postal Company. Everything needed for wrapping packages is at the Post Office.

Mail bags have been arriving at the Post Office at the rate of about 700 per day, Weber said. When dropping off mail, the clerks ask that the unit postal representatives check in and then take the time to separate mail so that it isn't passed over or misplaced.

Volunteer postal clerks are welcome, officials said. Nearly 40 people are now working two 11-hour shifts daily to sort through the mountains of mail.

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as many as 60 bags of mail at a time. However, the 1st Brigade mail clerks aren't complaining. They understand the significance of their task.

"I have no problem with this," said Spc. Shaun Levitt, HHC armorer and first sergeant's driver, who makes the trip several times a week to Tuzla as well as to Zupanja, 20 miles across the Sava River. "I'd rather see soldiers get their mail than have it just sit somewhere. It definitely boosts morale, especially with the conditions we're in."

The weather, mud, snow, field latrines and MREs won't get much better in the near future, but with the help of dedicated soldiers from the 1st Brigade, receiving those letters from home will become more routine.

I want my Talon!

Are you getting your *Talon* on a regular basis? The newspaper for Task Force Eagle is now being mailed out each Friday. If your unit is not receiving the publication each week, let us know so we can investigate the problem. Write to *The Talon*, 29th MPAD, Task Force Eagle, Media Operations Center/JIB, Tuzla Air Base NE, APO AE 09789.